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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/237,646	01/26/1999	VITTORIO CASTELLI	YO998-220	7219

7590 06/22/2004
ANNE VACHON DOUGHERTY
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EXAMINER

TRUONG, CAM Y T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

23

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

*Please: Reset the time from the mailing of the
Correspondence.*


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

*Jean M. Corrielus
Patent Examiner
ART Unit 2172*

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/237,646

Applicant(s)

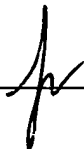
CASTELLI ET AL.

Examiner

Cam Y T Truong

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2172



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liddy et al (USP 5963940).

As to claims 1 and 9, teaches the claimed limitations:

"first searching said database to retrieve data based on said query" as after processing query, the system displays query information to the user indicating the system's interpretation and representation of the content of the query (abstract, col. 15, lines 60-65); "presenting retrieved data to user" as displaying query information (abstract, col. 15, lines 60-65);

"receiving user input based on said retrieved data" as (col. 7, lines 35-45);

"transforming said database based on said user input to generate a transformed database" as user interface software allows the user to interact with the system. The user

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interface software is responsible for accepting queries, which it provides to processing engine. The interface provides feedback to the user regarding the system's interpretation of the query, and accepts responsive feedback from the user in order to reformulate the query. The user interface also presents the retrieved documents as a result of the query to the user and reformats the output in response to user input (col. 7, lines 35-45);

"successively searching said transformed database to retrieve data" as the user interface provides feedback to the user regarding the system's interpretation of the query, and accepts responsive feedback from the user in order to reformulate the query. The user interface also presents the retrieved documents as a result of the query to the user and reformats the output in response to user input (col. 7, lines 35-45).

Liddy does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "repeating step b through e until the results for the said query is satisfied by the user". However, Liddy teaches as user interface software allows the user to interact with the system. The user interface software is responsible for accepting queries, which it provides to processing engine. The user interface provides feedback to the user regarding the system's interpretation of the query, and accepts responsive feedback from the user in order to reformulate the query. The user interface also presents the retrieved documents as a result of the query to the user and reformats the output in response to user input (col. 7, lines 35-45).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Liddy's teaching of after the user enter search request, the system retrieves data items based on user's input and then convert the retrieved data items to

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a format corresponding with the input condition for, finally displays the result to the user for providing a reduction in expensive multimedia query processing.

As to claims 2 and 10, Liddy teaches the claimed limitation "reformulating the query based on said user input and wherein said searching said transformed database comprises searching said transformed database based on said reformulated query" as accepting queries and reformulating queries based on the subject-contents of the marked documents. The retrieval system allows users to state multiple criteria for retrieving documents and for arranging those retrieval documents. The retrieval system also interacts with the user to formulate a complex representation of the subject contents of a query statements expressed in fully-formed sentences (col. 35, lines 25-35; col. 27, lines 10-25).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3, 4, 11-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claims 3 and 11, none of the available prior art of record teaches or fairly suggest extracting indices from said database and wherein said searching is preceded by retrieving indices to focus said search on indexed information in said database as recited in claim 3 and 11. Index querying service is well known in the art as taught Balogh and Graefe. However,

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prior art such Balogh and Graefe do not teach "extracting indices from said database and wherein said searching is preceded by retrieving indices to focus said search on indexed information in said data" in the specific combination as recited in claims 3 and 11.

As to claim 4 and 12 are objected because they are dependent on claim 3 and 11.

As claim 5-8 are allowed.

As to claim 5, none of the available prior art of record teaches or fairly suggest at leasta multidimensional indexing engine at said at least.....a similarity query engineretrieved indices from said multidimensional indexing engine for identifying database areas to be search as recited in claim 5. Similarity engine and index generation component are well known in the art as taught by Bach and Graefe. However, prior art such Bach and Graefe do not teach "at leasta multidimensional indexing engine at said at least.....a similarity query engineretrieved indices from said multidimensional indexing engine for identifying database areas to be search" in the specific combination as recited in claim 5.

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Contact Information


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam-Y Truong whose telephone number is (703-605-1169). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (703-305-9790). The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Cam-Y Truong

6/3/04



JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER